**Math 6: Pre-Algebra**

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**Essential Question:** *How is math like art?*

**Course Overview:**

The main topics that will be covered include:

* Rational numbers including negative integers
* Algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities
* Decimal and fraction operations
* Factors and multiples, squares and square roots, exponents
* Geometry
* Ratios, proportions, and percents
* Data analysis and probability

**Beliefs about math learning:**

1. Mistakes are valuable
2. Questions are essential
3. Math is about finding patterns and making connections
4. Depth of understanding is much more important than speed of computation
5. Everyone can learn math to the highest levels

**Supplies:**

Students should have the required supplies for sixth grade. In math class every day, students will need their purple math spiral notebook, their homework planner, pencils, and a colored pen. The purple folder will be used and stored in class. Students may also find it more convenient to bring their own colored pencils/pens, scissors, and tape.

**Textbook Information:**

Math 6 students use the *Prentice Hall Pre-Algebra* text. Each student will be given a textbook to take home for studying and homework use. **The textbooks should be covered and left AT HOME.** Please help lighten the load on our students’ backs and ensure that the book does not make a daily trip to and from school. If a book is needed during the school day, the student will have access to a copy from the class set.

**Class Expectations:** You must adhere to all of the rules in the student handbook.

**Specific rules for success in the math classroom are:**

1. Maintain a SILENT Ninja Time.

2. TRACK and RESPECT the speaker/action of the class.

3. Be kind: WORDS MATTER!

4. PERSEVERE!

6. Be prepared with all of your class materials every day.

**Daily Class Structure:**

The structure of Pre-Algebra will follow a flexible daily routine. Students will start with a daily warm-up inquiry or a set of problems meant to foster mental math abilities, review previously covered material, or explore a new concept. Students will then check their homework from the previous night and specific questions will be addressed. New material will be presented and practiced in a full group or small group setting. We will spend a significant portion of our time working in groups and developing skills related to reasoning and communicating about math. Students will practice the material through lesson practice and/or an exit slip prior to leaving the classroom.

**Grading:**

Participation (20%)

Students will be expected to work diligently both individually and in groups to make the most of our instruction time. During group work, each student will be assigned a job (these will change regularly). Successful participation in a group involves fulfilling the expectations of your job, asking questions of other group members, answering questions when others ask you, and contributing to the overall success of the group by staying on task. The participation grade also includes being prepared for class with all necessary supplies, being in uniform, arriving on time, completing classwork and notes and treating others with respect. Participation is monitored by the teacher and is also self-assessed on a weekly basis.

Homework (10%)

Homework will be assigned several days a week, but not on weekends. Homework allows a student to practice math concepts, while checking the homework in class the next day builds study skills and habits necessary for success in future studies of all subjects. Homework is graded for completion and quality of work - not for correctness.

*Below is the WLPCS Late Homework/Project Policy:*

The point of daily homework is to advance a student’s learning through independent practice

and/or exploration. Homework and classwork are often intertwined and homework provides the

catalyst for a day’s lesson. We will therefore not accept late homework; students who turn in

completed homework on the day it is due will receive full credit; students who fail to turn in homework on the day it is due will not receive any credit for that daily assignment. Individual teachers will grant exceptions to this policy for illness, significant family events, or anything else a teacher deems worthy of exception. Because we take seriously our responsibility to teach students how to manage their time and plan for a long-term project, we take a different approach with anything that requires more than one or two days to complete. Students who complete a long-term project on time are eligible to receive full credit; students who hand in a long-term project one day late can receive no higher than a B, and students who turn in a long-term project two days late can receive no higher than a C. At the end of the two-day period, teachers may decide to give students partial credit for the work they have done on a project or they may decide to give a student a failing grade. Individual teachers will determine any exceptions for illness, significant family events, etc.

Quizzes/Projects (30%)

Quizzes may focus on a set of lessons or a specific topic, depending on the unit. **Students may retake quizzes within one week of receiving the graded quiz. However, they must sign up for at least one tutorial session prior to the retake to review their mistakes and get extra practice.** If a parent or guardian can vouch for review at home (an email is fine), a student will be able to simply sign up for a quiz retake. Retake grades will completely replace the original grade. If you score a 60% on the original quiz and 100% on the retake, your grade for that quiz will be 100% because you have shown that you’ve mastered the concepts.

Tests (40%)

Tests will be given roughly every four to five weeks at the end of each unit of study. Students are provided with study guides, ample time to review, and opportunities in class to ask questions leading up to the test. There may also be sporadic multiple-choice cumulative tests to assess overall retention throughout the year. Our quiz policy gives students the opportunity to take and retake quizzes as needed in order to master the concepts; therefore, retakes on tests are not permitted.

*If you have any questions or concerns at any point this school year, please do not hesitate to reach out. I look forward to working with you and your child this year.*